



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT of  
**CORRECTIONS AND  
REHABILITATION**

# CDCR NEWS

[www.CDCR.ca.gov](http://www.CDCR.ca.gov)

October 2009

## CDCR Files Inmate Reduction Plan With the Federal Court

The CDCR filed a comprehensive plan on Sept. 18 with the federal three judge panel that reforms the prison system over several years and eventually could exceed the panel's order to bring the operational capacity to 137.5 percent of combined design capacity of the state's 33 prisons.

The plan combines previous reform efforts done administratively by CDCR and the implementation of recently passed legislation, with construction of prison beds, and significant expansion of out-of-state transfers.

Reforms and construction plans already adopted will result in a reduction of the crowding rate from the current 190 percent to 155 percent over the next three years and 148 percent over six years. Furthermore, CDCR will continue to seek additional prison reforms through the legislature which could drop the crowding rate to 132 percent over that six year period, exceeding the panel's order.

"This is a sound plan that addresses this very serious problem in a smart and fiscally responsible manner that makes public safety a priority," said CDCR Secretary



CDCR's inmate population was at an all time high in 2006 when this picture was taken. Since then, the population has been reduced dramatically. CDCR's plan ensures continued inmate population reductions while ensure public safety and security.

Matthew Cate. "We cannot anticipate the court's reaction, but this plan represents a reasonable and good-faith effort to reduce overcrowding in the safest possible manner."

In addition to lowering its capacity

through reforms and construction, the state is committed to building beds to serve the medical and mental health population, which will further improve health care delivery that already has been significantly improved.

## CIM Dedicates State Highway 71 to Slain Officer Gonzalez

The memory of California Institution for Men (CIM) Correctional Officer Manuel A. Gonzalez Jr., who died in the line of duty on Jan. 10, 2005, was invoked anew on at a ceremony on Sept. 18 at CIM when a portion of a state highway is renamed in his honor.

CDCR Secretary Matt Cate joined CIM War-

den (A) Aref Fakhoury, Sen. Gloria Negrete McLeod (D-32), and other local elected officials as State Highway Route 71 between State Highway 60 and Central Avenue in San Bernardino County will be renamed the Correctional Officer Manuel A. Gonzalez Jr. Memorial Highway.

"We are grateful to Sen. McLeod and others in the Legislature who stepped up to honor Officer Gonzalez, who will always be remembered in the hearts and minds of his family and his fellow employees," said Cate. "The naming of this highway in his memory will serve as a constant reminder of the dedication of our correctional employees and the dangers they encounter daily."

Sen. Gloria Negrete McLeod sponsored legislation that made this possible.



Members of the Gonzalez family attended the event.

## CDCR Posts Programming Reductions & Resources

CDCR announced Sept. 17 it is cutting adult offender rehabilitation programs, reducing headquarters staff and creating new efficiencies to save more than \$280 million in response to the department's plan to achieve a \$1.2 billion budget reduction.

On Sept. 23 the department posted information for employees on this issue.

For more information on SROA letters, placement, program reductions and other related issues:

**Email:** [CDCRPlacementTeam@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:CDCRPlacementTeam@cdcr.ca.gov)

**Telephone:** 916-255-6253

# Cell Phones In Inmate Hands Pose Threat to Safety, Security

## *Legislation Needed to Combat Threat*

If we were to ask any CDCR warden or any state corrections director what they consider to be their number one threat to prison safety and security, they would all give us the same answer: inmates possessing and using cell phones inside the walls for criminal activity.



Matthew Cate

Cell phone smuggling into prisons is on the rise in California and throughout the country. Discoveries of contraband cell phones in our adult institutions doubled in 2008 from the previous year. CDCR put a standardized reporting system in place last year to allow adult institutions to report uniformly the number of confiscated phones. As recordkeeping has improved, the scope of the problem became abundantly clear.

Inmates using cell phones circumvent our ability to supervise conversations, and may be used by inmates to orchestrate criminal activity, plan escapes, and can be a menace outside prison walls. They continue to be made smaller and more advanced as technology improves—making them easier to smuggle inside our walls.

Prison staff routinely monitor inmate telephone calls made through the traditional inmate phone system. Contraband cell phones circumvent this system, and have been used to coordinate escapes, orchestrate criminal activity, and be a menace outside prison walls.

We established a Wardens' Advisory Group (WAG) in November 2007 on cell phone interdiction. The group has examined numerous techniques for

detecting and seizing cell phones, and is exploring related technologies. As part of these efforts, CDCR has increased its detection efforts. Prisons currently use a variety of detection techniques, including random searches of staff, visitors, and inmates. There is also increased security at prison entrances, and mail room

staff are using x-rays and other devices in mail processing. CDCR initiated a pilot project to train a dog to help detect hidden cell phones in prison cells.

Because it is such a serious issue, those in public safety inside prison walls and prosecutors on the outside need additional tools to combat cell phone smuggling. Current California law lacks a criminal penalty for inmate possession of cell phones. There is also no penalty for smuggling cell phones into state prisons.

During the last legislative session, Senate Bill 434 (Benoit) would have remedied this deficiency by making it a misdemeanor for an inmate to possess a cell phone in any California prison. The bill's passage would have increased the length of time an inmate would serve in prison. Due to fiscal constraints with the state budget, the Legislature chose not to act on this issue this budget year.

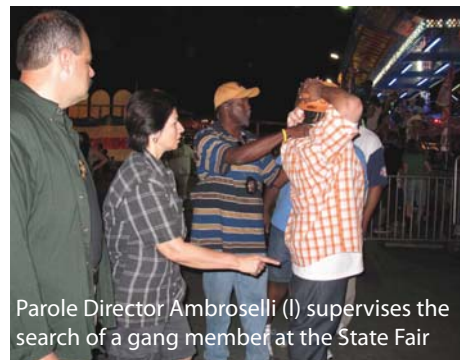
Because it is such a serious issue, the CDCR will continue to press this issue in the next legislative session. Though our prison security and investigation staffs are getting better at finding illegal cell phones, what we need now is a deterrent to stop the smuggling before it even gets to the front gate.

## Parole GPS Monitoring at State, Local Fairs Successful

The Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) wrapped up its first annual "Operation Eagle Eye" at the California State Fair, creating a template to support local law enforcement at other public gatherings in the future.

The Operation was designed to enhance public safety at the Fair by using existing GPS technology to ensure sex offender parolees were complying with the terms and conditions of their parole.

"We are the nation's leader in using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to track sex offenders," said Robert Ambroselli, Director (A), Division of Adult Parole Operations. "Using GPS in this manner is one of the many ways the Parole Division can enhance public safety."



Parole Director Ambroselli (I) supervises the search of a gang member at the State Fair

Every sex offender on active parole has GPS monitoring as part of their supervision requirements. Once a notification was received, on-site CDCR parole agents tracked an offender's movement and investigated if any law, parole violation or any public safety issue existed.

"The vision and hard work of Sacramento Metro Parole supervisors Lou Anne Fisher and Greg Cundiff, along with the valuable assistance of the Cal Expo Police Department made this operation a success" said Marvin Speed, District Parole Administrator.

Parole agents and Tehama County Sheriff's deputies arrested a registered sex offender at the Tehama District Fair in late September using GPS. This is the first year law enforcement has used the devices at the Fair, and CDCR parole officers were monitoring the system when an alert went off, notifying them a paroled registered sex offender with a GPS device had entered the perimeter of the fair.



# National Organization Honors Two CDCR Employees for Heroism

Two California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) employees, Correctional Officer Christopher Briones and Special Agent Daniel Evanilla, were honored during the 2009 American Correctional Officer (ACO) Correctional Medal of Honor ceremony in Boston.

The two were honored for their heroic actions on the job during 2008. The ACO is a national coalition of organizations, fraternal associations and unions whose members include publicly employed correctional officers and corrections professionals.

Officer Christopher Briones is

from Ironwood State Prison and was honored as a recipient of the 2009 ACO Gold Medal of Honor. Special Agent Evanilla, with the Office of Correctional Safety's Special Services Unit, received the 2009 ACO Life Saving Award.

Both employees were recipients of the 2009 CDCR Medal of Valor during the 25th annual CDCR Medal of Valor ceremony on May 14 in Sacramento.



On Oct. 24, 2008, Officer Briones arrived at an uprising in one of the prison's dining halls, where a fellow officer had been knocked down by rioting inmates. Briones shielded

other officers using his own body and was able to drag the injured officer to safety.

In June 2008, Agent Evanilla's act of heroism helped save the life of a narcotics detective who had been shot during a search of a parolee's residence.

## CDCR Parole to Again Participate in Statewide "Operation Boo" Effort

CDCR parole agents will be enforcing special limits on sex offenders during the annual "Operation Boo," to ensure that they stay home and away from children on Halloween night.

"We are encouraged by our expansion of 'Operation Boo' to all four parole regions, due to previous successful operations," said Robert Ambroselli, Director (A) of Parole. "We will be out in force all over the state on Halloween and working with other local law enforcement entities to ensure sex offenders stay behind locked doors and that they keep the lights out on their porches."

CDCR's objective is to ensure that children are free to have fun without added worries about potential predators and that communities are safe from potential contacts with sex offenders. CDCR imposes its most

stringent parole conditions on sex offenders, including mandatory curfews and treatment, and limitations on their behavior and where they live to prevent contact with potential victims. Even so, sex offenders are held to even stricter limits on their behavior on Halloween Night, when children are on the streets and going door-to-door, sometimes through unfamiliar neighborhoods.

All CDCR parole agents will be enforcing special conditions on their caseloads individually. During "Operation Boo," agents and police will work together to knock on the doors of sex offenders who are parole to ensure they comply with all the special restrictions.

The event has become a yearly tradition for CDCR's parole division.

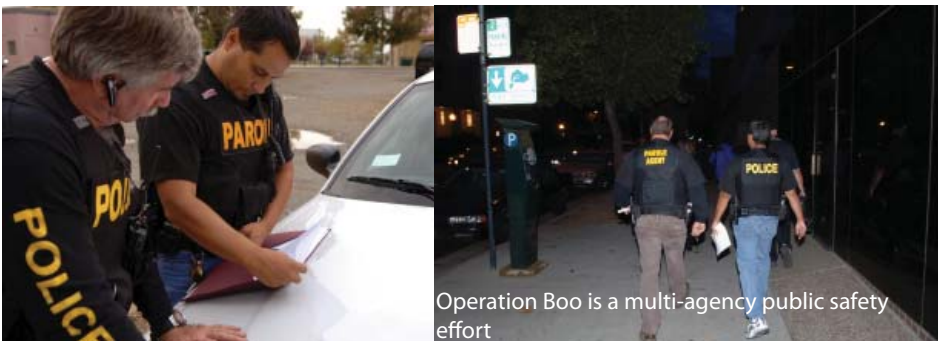
## Education Superintendent Named For DJJ Schools

Satisfying a major commitment in the Farrell lawsuit settlement, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger named veteran educator David Murphy as Superintendent of Education for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

Murphy, who has been an education administrator for the last 20 years and is a former remedial English and mathematics teacher, will be responsible for directing staff and developing policies for the DJJ's network of accredited high schools.

Murphy began his teaching career in Torrance and later was a high school principal before guiding school districts in El Dorado County and Davis.

"This is a significant step forward for the Division of Juvenile Justice in not only fulfilling an accreditation requirement as a school district but also meeting the education parameters outlined in the Farrell litigation," said Matthew Cate, Secretary for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.



Operation Boo is a multi-agency public safety effort

## CDCR Undersecretaries Kernan, Fernandez, Confirmed by Senate

During the last day of session on Sept. 12, the California State Senate confirmed Scott Kernan as Undersecretary of Operations and Mary Fernandez as Undersecretary of Administration for CDCR.

On Sept. 9, the Senate Rules Committee conducted a hearing and voted 5-0 to support Kernan's confirmation, following 40 minutes of deliberations and questions. Kernan was appointed to the post by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in fall 2008, pending his confirmation.

On July 8, the Senate Rules Committee conducted a hearing and voted 5-0 to support Fernandez' confirmation, following 30 minutes of deliberations and questions. Fernandez was appointed to the post by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in Fall 2008, pending her confirmation.

### Kernan

In his 26-year career in corrections, Kernan said he has been fortunate to have had a number of different as-



Scott Kernan



Mary Fernandez

signments to learn other facets of the position he now holds, such as administrative duties.

Starting as a San Quentin State Prison correctional officer in 1983, Kernan worked his way up the promotional path, working in six different classifications ranging from administration to operations.

In 1999 he took the assignment of facility captain at California Medical Facility. Following that, he was assigned as correctional administrator at Mule Creek State Prison in 2000. He served as chief deputy warden at Mule Creek State Prison beginning in 2001, before accepting the assignment of warden at the prison. He was

appointed warden at California State Prison, Sacramento in 2004. In 2006, he was appointed deputy director for the Division of Adult Institutions. In March 2007, he was promoted to chief deputy secretary, Adult Operations, before accepting the appointment to Undersecretary Operations in September 2008.

### Fernandez

Charged with overseeing more than 10 distinct support functions, Undersecretary Fernandez recommends to Secretary Cate how much money CDCR spends, who it hires, and what kind of equipment and services that employees will receive to do their jobs in some 200 physical locations throughout the state that CDCR serves.

Fernandez served the State Personnel Board as assistant executive officer since 2007 and chief of the administrative services division from 2005 to 2007. From 2003 to 2005, Fernandez was the director of member initiatives for the project management office at the California State Teachers Retirement System.

## Corrections - Moving Forward CDCR Annual Report Now Available

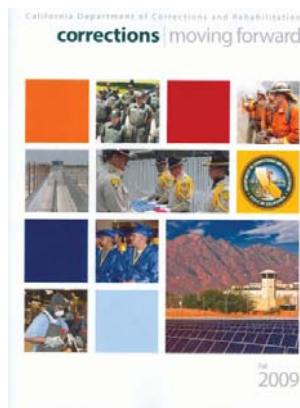
A new publication, **Corrections - Moving Forward**, contains important facts and more as part of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) efforts to provide a consistent and comprehensive understanding of today's corrections challenges.

This publication includes a statistical update on everything from inmate population trends to return-to-custody statistics, from the impact of the three strikes inmates to a look at CDCR's entire budget and a summary of the department's 2008-09 accomplishments.

"Transparency in government begins with

making information available to as many people as possible," said CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate. "Through the Internet, our collection of data bases and Office of Research, we have worked hard to keep statistics on offender population and programs current and accessible.

The publication uses 20 years of data in some areas and includes graphics and charts to illustrate trends over the years. Information was taken from the expanse of data already available on the CDCR Intranet and Internet websites at <http://intranet> and [www.cdcr.ca.gov](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov). Copies of the Annual Report are available for download at both locations. To request your own paper copy, send an email to [CDCRnews@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:CDCRnews@cdcr.ca.gov)



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